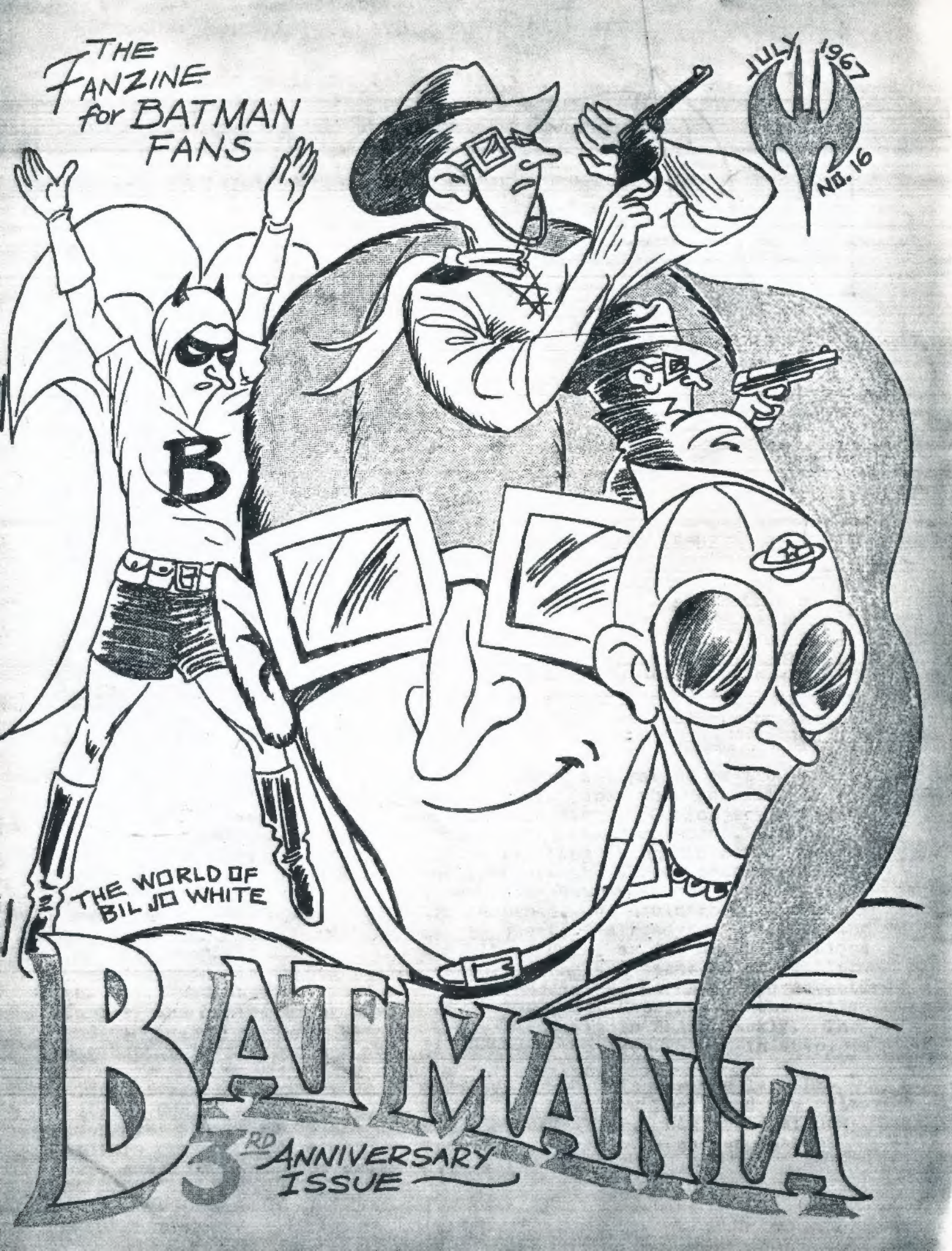

THE FANZINE for BATMAN FANS
JULY 1967
NO. 16
THE WORLD OF BILJO WHITE
BATMANIA
3RD ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

The Fanzine Especially for Batman Fans No. 16

BATMANIA

Our objective --to join together those who enjoy reading, watching, and collecting the stories of Batman & Robin.

Editor: BILJO WHITE
Asst. Editors:
TOM FAGAN
LARRY RAYBOURNE

THE BAT-HEADLINER for JULY -- 3rd ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

It really wasn't so long ago, it just seems that way. Batman of early 1964 was a far different Batman than the one we have today. Who could have guessed that Batman, the Cowled Crusader, would be read by millions in newspapers around the world; watched avidly by millions on TV; re-visited on the movie screens -- 4½ hours worth; featured in a full-length color movie; can be found on merchandise from gum cards to lamps. Now that Batman has achieved so much,do we really want the Batman of 1964?

Thru the pages of BATMANIA we have watched the parade of progress; have been a part of it, and now three years later what does it all add up to? With B'mania #1 we stated the code above: "Our objective..." From that moment on we continued our great Batman movement, little realizing we were on the threshold of exciting things to come. We were talking about Batman on TV well before the series became reality. We were discussing the merits of returning Batman to the syndicated newspaper strips, again, before it happened. We could go on and on, but Batmanians do not rest on past conquests. Already we are planning for the immediate future. The big Batman boom, as far as publications are concerned, is taking place overseas. England seems to be leading the way. Batman text stories can be found in the BATMAN World Adventure Series, and in the early issues of TV TORNADO. Reprints of the daily and Sunday Batman strip are appearing regularly in SMASH Weekly. The Big Batman Parade marches on. It is never too late to get in step.

"Captives of the Alien Zoo!" ended an era. This was the last DETECTIVE COMICS adventure of BM & R before the "New Look" and new editor took over the reins of the legendary crimefighter. New artists; new writers brought new ideas, new techniques. All of a sudden Batfans were swept up in controvercy.

Three factions took stand. There were those that steadfastly insisted Bob Kane's original Batman was the only Batman. Others clung to the current, Jack Schiff era Batman. The third group, the new group, wanted change. Batman must be reborn. They joined in the "New Look" idea; were willing to give it a go. Their initial reaction was one of disbelief. Who were these flashy characters in the familiar garb of the dynamic duo? Why does Alfred have to expire? Etc.

Editor Julius Schwartz became the Man of the Hour. His was a task comparable to Batman facing Joker, Penguin, Catwoman and the Riddler all at once. Under his able leadership, Batman began to live again. Perhaps it was a new Batman. It had to be. All life continually changes. Batman could be no exception. A year passed. Improvement could not only be seen, but felt. People were talking Batman like they had at no time before in the long history of the Man of the Bat.

Credit for the success of Batman must most certainly go the William Dozier and his Greenway Productions (of 20th Century-Fox). The Big Eye of television brought Batman directly into the homes of millions who had never read a comic book. Unbelieveably, the Batman TV show rated No. 1 across the nation on it's very first show. Those that had thrilled to the old chapter-play 1943 serial could now watch the new Batman.

And there it is again. . .the New Batman. All of us life-long Batmanians know of the basic principles of the Batman legend. As much as we hate to admit it, we can't go back. If we can't have the old Batman, then give us a new Batman we can believe in. Many of us are still seeking our versions of the true Batman. Some of us have grown to accept the Batman of today. The Batman Story moves on. The shape of future things still appear hazy, but let's take a look...

Batman, 1970.

..we will still be able to see Batman on TV. Not live, for the last series of shows ran thru the 1967-68 season. Batman, as a syndicated film series, will live on.. Those "Holy Exclamations!" and carefully measured "Old Chum's" (of Batman to Robin) will seem even funnier the second time around. We may very well ask ourselves: "Was Bill Dozier, Lorenzo Semple, Jr., Adam West, Burt Ward and Neil Hamilton really pulling our legs?"

The Batman newspaper strip faded back into limbo by mid-1968. Very few mourned its demise. Compared to the longer running strip of the 1940's, the strip of the '60's was poor. Quite poor.

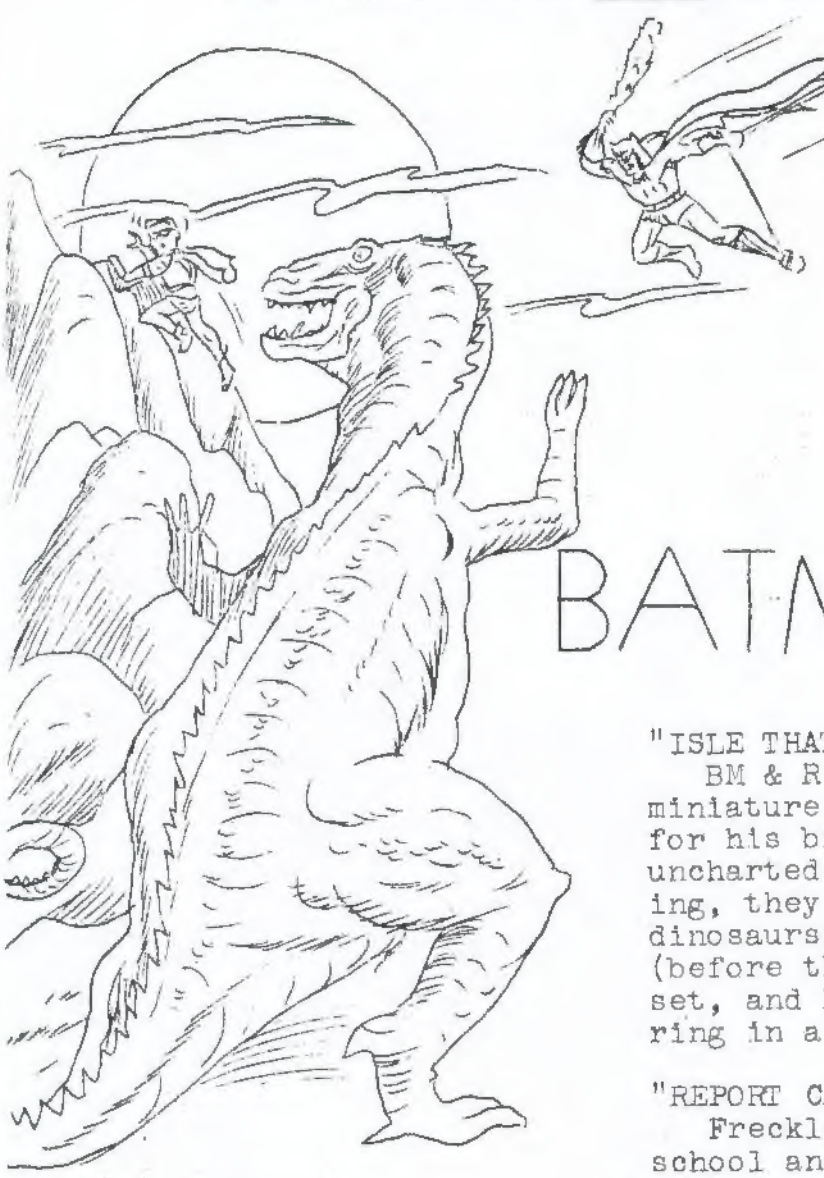
We have been looking at the debit side of the future. What about the good side. Can all of Batman's future be so bleak. What will happen to the immense popularity of the Dynamic Duo. ? ? ? To predict the future could be sheer folly -- but, oh, what fun!

Batman has, of this day, reached and passed his zenith. With this in mind, common sense tells us Batman's popularity must fade. But, I'm sure you'll be surprised at how big Batman will still be in 1970. By that time Batman comic sales will be on an equal with Superman, altho both will be below that of today. And if you keep watching, your 5-and-10 store will occasionally feature a genuine Bat-Item for sale.

Remember this, though, Batman of 1970 will be, as always, NEW.

FOR THE COLLECTOR:

From the BOOK of BATMAN
BATMEMORABILIA



Continuing the series of capsule versions of the World's Greatest All-Time Comic Adventures.

by

Larry Raybourne

BATMAN-10

April-May 1942

"ISLE THAT TIME FORGOT"

BM & R go up for a trial spin in a miniature Batplane Bruce gave Dick for his birthday, and discover an uncharted, prehistoric island. Landing, they are attacked by cave men, dinosaurs, and a saber-toothed tiger, (before they learn they are on a movie set, and have been tricked into starring in a Hollywood film.)

"REPORT CARD BLUES"

Freckle-faced Tommy Trent hates school and runs away from home because of poor grades. On his travels, he is kidnapped by gangsters and held hostage, but cleverly leaves a trail for BM & R. Thus proving he's not really so dumb after all, the boy decides to study harder and not play hookey again.

"PRINCESS OF PLUNDER"

Catwoman plans the purr-fect crime. By posing as a famous socialite hostess, she throws fabulous parties. Then, using her title as a "door-opener," gets the wealthy to allow her thieving

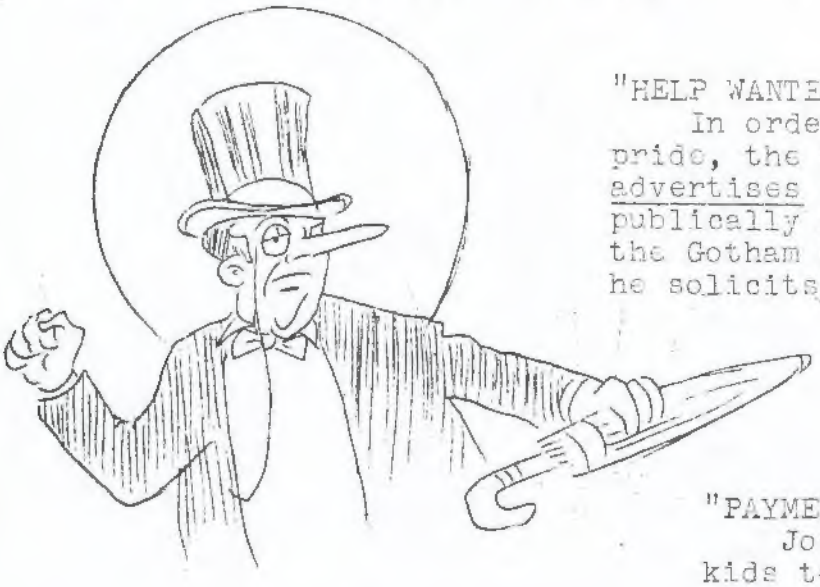
henchmen into their homes, under the auspices of a scavenger hunt. But Batman attends one of her costume balls dressed as himself and soon trims her claws.

"SHERIFF OF GHOSTTOWN"

A rootin' tootin' Western in which Batman is made sheriff of Sunshine City, and Robin is appointed chief duputy. A group of impoverished but ambitious settlers founded the community on a site long-abandoned since the gold strike, (but gun-slinging badmen come to take-over). That is until our heroes round them up and restore law and order.

BATMAN-11

June-July 1942



"HELP WANTED"

In order to indulge his limitless pride, the diabolical Joker nervily advertises his crimeful intentions publically in the classified pages of the Gotham Gazette! In one section, he solicits antique wagons, which delivered simultaneously aid him to elude BM & R. But subsequent publicity lands him a "position" in jail.

"PAYMENT IN FULL"

Joe Dolan and Lee Benson were kids together on the same shabby block of a poor neighborhood. One was frail and timid, the other, husky and reckless. They become close friends after the tough saves the "book-worm's" life. But BM & R watch them follow widely divergent paths, one leading to Governorship, the other to the "chair."

"BANDITS IN TOYLAND"

To save the reputation of a man accused of stealing jewelry from a department store, jurist Bruce Wayne faces the indignant wrath of eleven angry men who wish to pronounce a guilty verdict, but as Batman, he proves the defendant's innocence by revealing that the gems were concealed in playthings, cruelly robbed from children.

"FOUR BIRDS OF A FEATHER"

head South for Miami and alight in The Bird House, a crooked gambling casino, hoping to make a "nest egg." Who could their leader be but the chortling Penguin, (who makes his debut in Batman Comics with this issue), flocking together with three fowl friends: Crow, Buzzard, and Canary. They are " caged" by two other flying creatures: Batman and Robin!

"BROTHERS IN CRIME"
BM & R reminisce over their trophies. A bulletproof vest recalls to mind the three Rafferty boys, Pete, Steve, and Mike. All died because they wore the protective armor to commit crime. One was dropped to his death by a magnetic crane. The second drowned from the excess weight. The third removed his to join two electric wires and was shot.

"WIZARD OF WORDS"
The Joker, using slang, puns,

BATMAN-12

Aug.-Sept. 1942

and figures of speech to plot his crimes, turns Gotham upside down. Among his play on words is "paint the town red," which he does, literally with colored, corrosive acid which lets him break into a bank! "Money talks," "rolling in dough," (real bread batter,) etc. are others.

"THEY THRILL TO CONQUER"
A tribute to the stuntmen and daredevils who risk their lives for the entertainment of others. One such man who thrives on danger is a circus acrobat who is being victimized by a protection racket, much as Dick Grayson's family was in his origin story, (Detective #38). The crooks are nabbed after Batman is shot toward them out of a cannon!

"AROUND THE CLOCK WITH BATMAN"
is a minute-by-minute account of a typical day in the life of Batman and Robin, tracing their daily activities from morning to night. Besides preventing two holdups and a suicide, the duo sell War Bonds, perform for handicapped children, sigh autographs, workout in the gym, etc. Dick even manages to do his homework while Bruce writes a book!

Con't. next page

***WANTED by the Old Capt.: Tape recording of any of the JAMES BOND movies; the BATMAN movie; 2nd BATMAN serial; and some BATMAN TV shows. I need HELP and DRAG Cartoons with WONDER WARTHOG--also the college magazines: TEXAS RANGER and BACCHANAL with the HOG of STEEL. Also MADEMOISELLE mag.,Aug.1962. Will buy or trade for any of these. Contact: CAPTAIN BILJO, 1812 JACKSON ST., COLUMBIA, MISSOURI 65201

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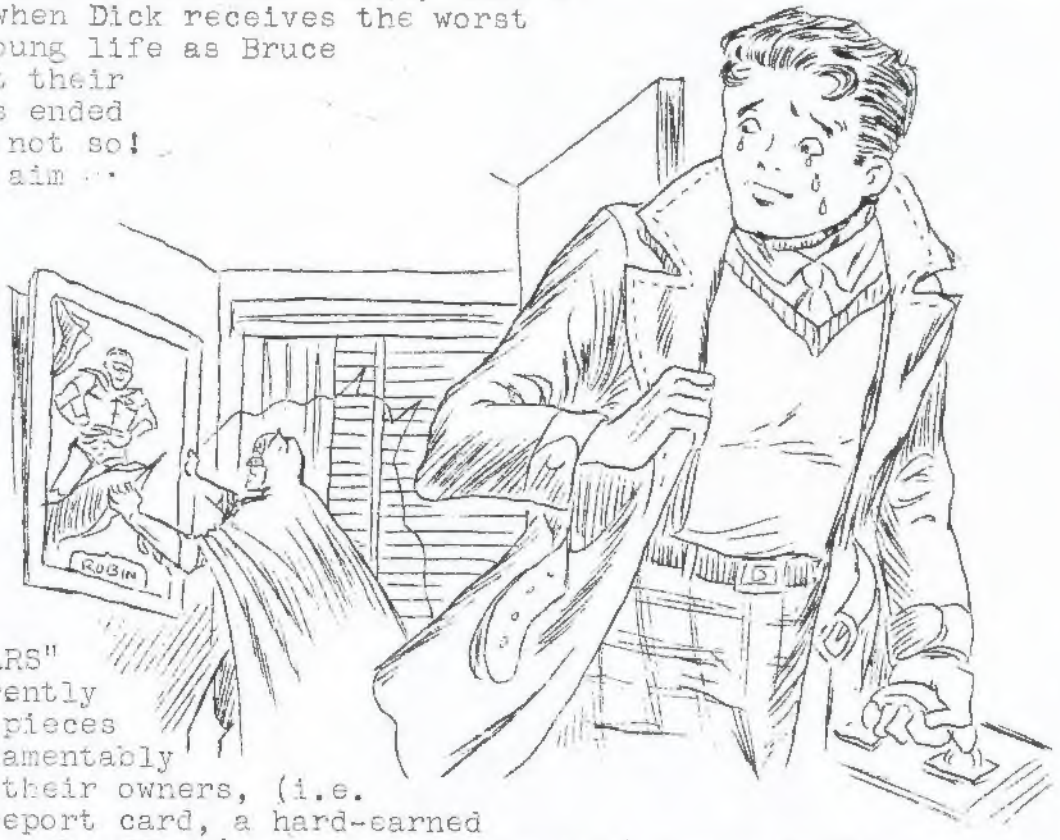
BATMAN-13

Oct.-Nov. 1942

"BATMAN PLAYS A LONE HAND"

What worse fate could befall a boy hero than to have his crime-fighting sidekick desert him? Well, that's what happens when Dick receives the worst blow of his young life as Bruce announces that their partnership is ended forever. But not so! Batman's real aim is to save Robin from a dangerous gang that is gunning for him.



"COMEDY OF TEARS"

When apparently insignificant pieces of paper are lamentably snatched from their owners, (i.e. a straight-A report card, a hard-earned petition, and a chauffeur's valued references,) the purpose can only be to forge, later, the influential signatures that appear thereon. Once BM & R unravel the scheme, it is the Joker's turn to cry!

"SEVENTEEN STONES"

have ironically shaped the life of "Rocky" Grimes. He got amnesia when hit on the head by a brick, was sent to prison, (where he made big ones out of little ones,) and recovering his memory when struck by a flying cobblestone, he decides to get revenge on the gang who double-crossed him by using various kinds of stones. Batman and Robin follow his rocky trail to the Petrified Forest, (trees turned to stone). During a fight over a ravine, the killer slips on hailstones, and ends up under a tombstone!

"DESTINATION UNKNOWN"

For Trivia buffs, this is a comic book version of the oldtime radio show, Grand Central Station. The lives and personalities of eight fellow passengers are inter-woven and changed as a result of the journey, (as well as the influence of Batman and Robin.) To those who can recall the thrill of a train ride, it is a 10¢ ticket to the Past.

Look for more BATMEMORABILIA. Coming soon.

CLIPPING REPRINTS

The Santa Ana Register for December 23'66 has the following on page A-12.

HOLLYWOOD (NEA)—It may be too early to determine what you think of the Green Hornet, but it isn't too early to report what the Green Hornet thinks about you.

"The average television viewer," says Van Williams, who plays the title stinger, "isn't sophisticated. And that's why few well-done shows have done well.

"I think of the average viewer as a guy from an aircraft plant who comes home, takes off his shoes, grabs a can of beer and wants to be entertained, to see something that willhelp him escape from the monotony of his job and perhapes, his family."

Williams talks frankly about this show and that other one-Batman-which spawned it.

"Merchandising," he says. "is the key. I think both Batman and Green Hornet were conceived basically because of their merchandising potential. That's such a fabulous business. The last figure I heard was that Batman merchandising had reached $85 million--and that's only the domestic figure."

Williams has a piece of the merchandising action of Green Hornet. That was one of the reasons he took the part.

"I feel that, this first year," he says, "if all goes well I'll make more money than all but perhaps the top 10 movie stars.

"That's why I believe television is a good place to work. I'm not one of those who looks on television as a stepping stone to features. Today's television stars have as much prestige and generally more money and more exposure than movie stars."

He is also optimistic about Green Hornet's future.

"I think it will have a greater longevity than Batman," he says. "People are getting tired of Batman."

The Santa Ana Register for December 22'66 has the following on C-11.
Film Producers Cool to TV Stars by Dick Kleiner.
HOLLYWOOD (NEA)—Report from the Batcave, the lair of William Dozier. one of television's most brillant architects...Bill says he will make no more Batman movies...The first one did well, but not well enough to warrant the effort..As for Batman on the tube, there will be some changes made, primarily because the Wednesday show is losing the rating battle to Lost in Space.

"They both appeal to the same audience--we estimate that 60 per cent of our viewers are in the 4-to-12 age bracket"..From now (or very soon)on, the Thursday Batman show will only have a brief recap, so if you miss Wednesday's episode, you're on your own...And, in January, there will be three-part episodes, in the hope that you'll be forced to watch on Wednesday to see how it all comes out.

As for Dozier's other one, The Green Hornet, he's trying to talk ABC into expanding it to an hour next year...He thinks it's too tough to tell that kind of story in a half-hour...

"I'll make no more half hour shows after Batman, The Green Hornet and Dick Tracy (his entrant for next season) run their course."

After that, only hour shows--and first on his agenda is a television treatment of the hit movie, "Laura."

The Santa Ana Register for December 26'66 has the following on B-9. **Topless** Bobbsey Twins Might Survive The Cut. (Brownsville, Tex., Herald)

There is, to be sure, something dreadfuly irrelevant about the Bobbsey Twins, Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys in the age of the topless waitress. Somehow, Tom the Fun-Loving Rover Boy does not relate to LSD or black leather jackets, although it is not our purpose either to point with pride or view with alarm. We simply remark that the world has changed, at least in its outward appearance, and yesterday's hero is today's fink.

Nevertheless, we suffered something of a twitch the other day when a state library consultant suggested the Weslaco library remove the Bobbseys, the Hardys and the Nancy Drews from the bookshelves in favor of newer and, presumably, cooler cats. If the suggestion had not come from a genuine, card-carrying, state-approved expert, we'd have said the hell with her. But one does not with impunity, sass an expert any more; and to cast doubt on the infallibility of the state is as hopelessly old-fashioned as the kind of fun and games that gave the Hardy Boys a charge,

To be objective about the matter, the Hardys and the Bobbseys and La Nancy were part of a world which never existed, even in their time, and which, on introspection, would have been pretty hopeless if it had. Still, there must be room on the shelves even of a public library for some charmingly impossible fiction of the Hardy Boys genre without crowding out the Tropic of Capricorn or Virginia Woolf. Co-existance, that's the ticket!

We wonder how the state consultant feels about the McGuffey readers, lately come back into some fashion. Dorthy Thompson drew the distinction between the McGuffey readers and the modern ones. In McGuffey, she said, the youngster reads Shakespeare; in the new primer, he reads about Shakespeare.

McGuffey is far removed from the Hardy's and Nancy Drew but they share a place in our past which resists obliteration by the most expert consulant.

If Nancy was impossibly sirupy and if you wished, sometimes, that Dink Stover would get his noble head knocked off by the Harvard tacklers--well, how do you feel after an evening with one of J. D. Salinger's pimpled products?

Still, one must accept change, especially if a consultant tells one to. We might suggest compromise, of course. Our Leader loves compromise.

How about Nancy Drew, Topless Waitress? Or, the Hardy Boys And Their Pop Factory? Or, the Bobbsey Twins Join Hell's Angels? The Rover Boys and Their Sex Machine?

Clearly, one age must accommodate itself to what has gone before it and, more important, to foreshadows of what is to come.

The Los Angeles Times for November 8'66 has the following on D-13. Producer Assigns Dick Tracy Cast. Regular members of the Dick Tracy cast have been set by executive producer William Dozier. Playing Tracy's detective partner Sam Catchem, will be Monroe Arnold. Signed for the role of police chief Patton is Ken Mayer. Jan Shuntan has been signed for the role of Lizz, the policewoman, and Tracy's wife, Tess (nee Truehart), will be portrayed by Dave Davidson. Ray MacDonnell plays Tracy. (Dave? D. a woman??--John.

The Los Angeles Times for January 23'67 has the following on D-18. Comic Strips in France Not Getting Laughs From Natives by Mary Blume (Special to The Times)

PARIS—Americans have long known that the funnies aren't really funny, but the French are making even greater strides in taking the comics in dead earnest.

Among the new scholars is Evelyne Sullerot, a French sociologist who looks like Blondie and who won the reputation of France's Betty Frieden before turning to les bandes dessinees or comic strips.

Mme. Sullerot 's specialty in comics is onomatopoeia. "Onomatopoeia is getting more and more Important," she says. "In France before the war there was nothing but PAFF!

"The noises that disturb us in modern life—cars and telephones—you will find represented by RZZZZ. Mysterious noises that are not part of modern life go ZZZZ. No R, you will notice.

"Emotions are generally shown by nonverbal means, that is by colors and shapes of letters," Mme. Sullerot continued. "But anger is of course GRRR."

Research Project

She is now researching into ING and ANG. "In America they are part of the language structure—BING,BANG," she noted. In France they mean everything is collapsing: FLING FLANG."

Mme. Sullerot's early researches were impeded by her inability to understand the funnies—"maybe it's because I have a college education," she suggests—so her 12-year-old son has helped by translating and by compiling a dictionary of onomatopoeia.

He has also seen Batman, but warns that it is not serious.

Mme. Sullerot is vice president of a French funnies club which goes under the resounding title, "Le Centre d'Etudes des Litteratures d'Expression Graphique."

"We had to call it that. When we used the word comic strip no one takes us seriously," explained the group's president, writer Francois Lascassin.

Serious Business

The group is serious, all right. They have organized a nine-nation comic strip federation, have supervised a schism (a splinter group has now formed), have persuaded France's biggest daily paper, France-Soir, to carry Mandrake le Magicien, and have their own scholarly publication, "Giff Wiff."

They find American groups frivilous. "There are 21 groups in America," said Lacassin, "but they are fans. We are researchers."

Lacassin has written a definitive article comparing the Burne Hogarth Tarzan drawings to Michelangelo and he is currently investigating the mythic content of les bandes dessinees. The group has also published a homage to Popeye and an exhaustive study of Felixe le Chat by a members of the Academie Francaise.

Film director Alain Resnais ("Hiroshima Mon Amour") has contributed an article entitled "Thirty Years of Friendship With Dick Tracy," later retitled "Dick Tracy, or America in 143 images."

"The day Alain Resnais became celebrated he could finally say "I like comics' and no one dared laugh," Lacassin said. "We have had to wait until we are old grandfathers before comics were accepted here." He is 35. (continued)

(continued) Peanuts Favorite

Now they are not only accepted, they are chic. Most fashionable among intellectuals is Peanuts which Evleyne Sullerot recently analyzed for the French weekly Arts:

"The America which honors Peanuts and recognizes itself in Charlie Brown, boy failure, deliciously sententious and intellectual, an inoffensive individualist who seeks to adjust to society without being able to— what balance is it seeking?" she asked in her article.

"Is America hiding, while sucking its thumb with Linus, in an emotional regression which makes it forget that its supermen are defoliating Vietnam with death rays and tracking down lesser creatures with a supertechnique that no one would dream of calling a super-civilization?"

GOOD GRIEF!

The Santa Ana Register for January 15'67 has the following on A-3.
Tarzan Comic Dying On Vine

NEW YORK (AP) — Tarzan, one of the most popular and durable heroes in fiction, will disappear from newspaper comic pages at the end of February.

The comic strip contract between the estate of Edgar Rice Burroughs, creator of the jungle lord, and United Features will not be renewed.

The contract was allowed to terminate by mutual agreement because the income from syndication was not considered adequate to be split three ways, among the estate, the syndicate and the artist, sources said.

The comic strip, carried by about 225 newspapers, has been going for about 50 years.

The Los Angeles Times for January 11'67 has the following on A-12.
Capp Invites Baez to Prove She's 'Phoanie'

BOSTON (UPI) — Cartoonist Al Capp said Tuesday that if folksinger Joan Baez can prove that the character Joanie Phoanie in his Li'l Abner strip resembles her, "I feel sorry for her."

"Joanie Phoanie is a repulsive, egomanical, un-American, non-taxpaying horror," said Capp. "I see no resemblance to Joan Baez whatsoever, but if Miss Baez wants to try to prove it, let her."

Miss Baez said in Honolulu Monday that she probably will go to court to get the character eliminated from the strip unless her attorney can obtain a retraction from Capp. She described the Li'l Abner episode concerning a protest singer as "vulgar and stupid."

"Miss Baez should remember that protest singers don't own protests," observed Capp. "When she protests about others rights to protest, she is commiting suicide. I think people who go into the protest business should be given a plaque with Harry S. Truman's picture and his famous quote: 'If you can't stand the heat, get the hell out of the kitchen.'"

Capp said he had never seen Miss Baez or heard her records, so he obviously was not satirizing her. He said there were lots of folksingers named Joan. but none of them were six feet tall and had white-blonde hair that he known of, even Joan Baez, who is petite and brunette. (continued)

(continued) "Oh, I know these protest types," said Capp. "They go around singing that our President is a murderer and our soldiers are rapists and looters, but just let someone call them fakes. But, of course, Joan Baez would do anything for publicity."

The Long Beach Independent Press-Telegram for Jan 22'67 has the following on page 15 in the Tele-Vues section.

Caped Crusader Survives One Year by Vernon Scott.

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)--The trumpets blare, the banners unfurl, huzzahs are raised and we hear the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance."

What is this magnificent occasion?

The first anniversary on television of "Batman!" That's what.

The caped crusader and Robin have survived 12 months on the air, twice weekly, to the joy of fully half the population and the chagrin of the other half.

It is incumbent on any reporter, then to discuss this milestone with the man responsible for bringing the daring duo to our living rooms. That man is quiet, scholary William Dozier.

As producer and father of the ABC-TV series, Dozier is proud thay "Batman" has held up well in the ratings.

"We're consistently in the Top 20 in the ratings," he said, "Naturally, we couldn't expect to maintain the top standing we had in the first week or two.

"We're on at 7:30 and no show has ever remained in the Top 10 or 20 for more than a week because there are fewer sets in use at that time than later in the evening."

"Batman's format was new to television. Half of the show is beamed on Wednesday nights, the conclusion on Thursdays.

For some murky reason, Thursday nights have outdrawn Wednesday. Dozier now is considering the possibility of putting the two half hours together on Thursday evenings next fall.

"A solid hour, instead of two half hours, may work out a little better," he said. "Anyhow, that is the way the show is written and filmed. Otherwise we don't expect to change very much.

"This season we've introduced 14 new villains and there will be more of them next year."

Dozier was asked who watched "Batman."

"Well, research shows that 65 pre cent of the audience is in the 4-11 age bracket and 15 per cent are from the 13-19. That's 85 per cent and the rest are adults," he answered.

"There's a gap among the 11-13 year olds. They say it's a kids' show. They're too young to see the humor and the spoof, but too old to be carried away by the action and adventure.

"The show is a big hit now in England — where it gets a 45 per cent share of the audience — and in France, Japan, Latin America, South America and Australia.

"Someone told me it's difficult to believe 'Batman' has been on the air for only a year. I find it hard to accept myself. It's now a part of folklore. And it can run forever."

Dozier didn't mean that he will be making episodes into infinity. He expects another two or three years on prime time, thereafter running the show in the afternoons for small fry and still later on Saturday mornings. Finally, it will go into syndication.

"We're very happy with our success," he concluded. "We hope it will continue."

READING MATERIAL

Lifetime	Past 3 yrs.	Past 3 months
First.....Hard & Soft Cover Books	H&SCB	Newspapers
Second....Comic Magazines	Newspapers	H&SCB
Third.....Newspapers	Comic Mags	Comic Mags
Fourth....Magazines	Magazines	Magazines
Fifth/....Phamplets, etc.	Phamplets	Phamplets

The above is a chart showing which type of material that I have read the most of, the next to the most of, on down to the fifth and last place within my lifetime, the past 3 years & the past 3 months. The reason for newspapers going from second to first place is that recently I commenanced reading/scaning 3 papers (S.A.REGISTER: L.A.T., L. A. H.-E.) every day instead of just the LAT with my brother taking care of the other two. Thus I now spend a lot more time on newspapers and a lot less on books.

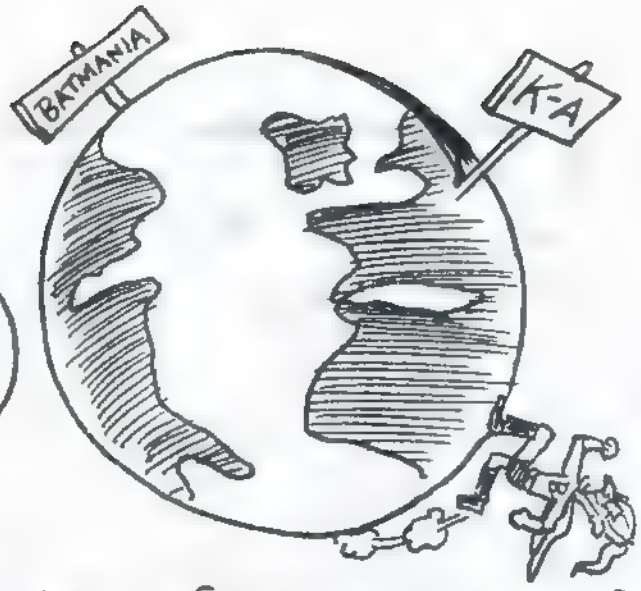
Among the many records we keep is one listing the title & type of every hard & soft cover books that we have read all the way through and due to the fact that I read few of them prior to my commeancing the listing in '56 it is 99.9% complete. As of Jan 29'67 I have read a total of 1,106 different books plus another 238 for twice, thrice & even a few fourth readings for a grand total of 1,344. I have broken this grand total down into the following totals for nine different catagories.

Edgar Rice Burroughs	149	Jungle	82
Science Fiction & Fantasy	422	Fairy Tales & Mythology	34
Mystery, Detective & 'Spy'	313	Comedies	2[illegible]
War	124	Other	55
Western	142	G.Total (both collumns)	1,344

Having read many of the ERB books twice & most of them thrice accounts for the high score in that field. SF&F ranges from the Van Vogt, EE Smith & RE Howard tales to the Tom Corbert, Rick Brant and Tom Swift Sr. & Jr. novels. Detective, Mystery & Espionage (Spy) stories include a tripple reading of the Sherlock Holmes & Charlie Chan books and single readings of most or all of the Mike Hammer, Tiger Mann, Matt Helm, Nick Carter, 'Saint', Sam Durell, James Bond, Arsene Lupin, Shell Scot, Philo Vance & Fu Manchu series as well as the works of Eric Ambler & Carter Brown. War tales cover from factual stories to Boy's Fiction dealing with the revolutionary War to World War II. Westerns include the Clarance E. Mulford books (all 28 twice), the 21 Lone Ranger novels (the 20 G&D ones ditto) & all Whitman Roy Rogers, Red Ryder & Gene Autry novels. The bulk of the Jungle stories consist of all second & some third readings of the twenty Bomba, The Jungle Boy books. The Blue, Yellow, Grimms & Anderson Fairy Tales 'speak for themselves'. A first & second reading of the Thorne Smith novels accounts for most all of the Comedy catagory; while biographies & auto-biographies make up the majority of the 'others' figure.

I doubt if anyone else keeps book on their reading material, but just in case I'll wind this bit up by stating the obvious fact that I'll always be ready to read similar gab from anyone at anytime.

THE WORLD of CAPT. BIJO



WHAT'S NEW AT THE "WHITE HOUSE of COMICS, YOU ASK? TO BEGIN WITH, PART OF "WHAT'S NEW" WILL BE TOLD ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES. I'VE DECIDED TO UNITEMY OBLIGATIONS TO THE CAPA-ALPHIANS (K-A) WITH MY REGULAR BATMANIA PRODUCTIONS. NOT ALL, BUT SEVERAL CHOICE PAGES FROM TIME-TO-TIME.

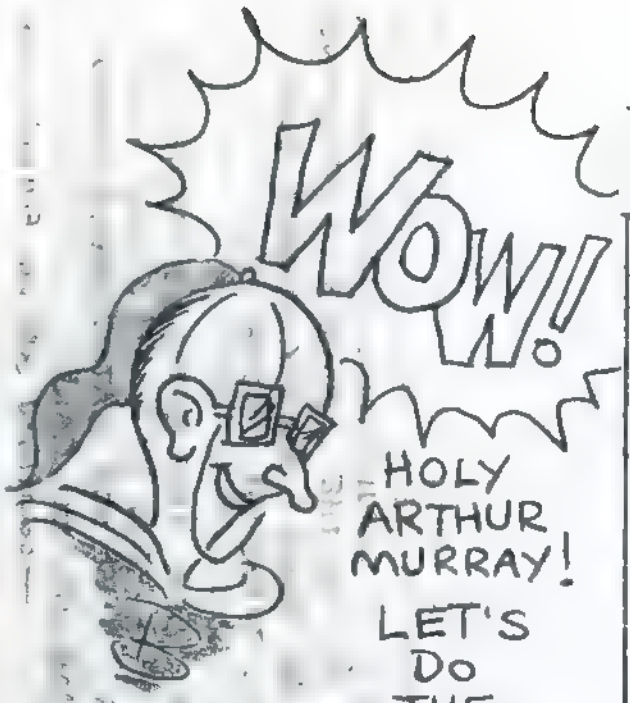
TO THE BATMANIANS, K-A IS A MONTHLY MAGAZINE THAT HAS A CLOSED CIRCULATION OF MEMBERS ONLY WHO CONTRIBUTE PRINTED PAGES REGULARLY TO A CENTRAL MAILER. THE C.M. IN TURN MAILS OUT THE COLLATED ISSUE. THIS METHOD WAS TO BE TRIED BY THE BATMANIANS IN A SPECIAL BATMANIA-200 ISSUE, BUT FAILED TO MATERIALIZE.

HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBER THE VARIOUS CAPT. MARVEL ITEMS YOU COULD ORDER BACK IN THE MID-'40'S? ALL THE OLD FAWCETT PUBLICATIONS CARRIED ADS OF THE MERCHANDISE FOR SALE. BUT ONE OF THOSE I COULD NOT FIND AN AD OF WAS A CAPT. MARVEL TIE CLIP. A SHORT TIME AGO, ON A BACK PAGE OF THE ANTIQUE TRADER, I NOTICED SOMEONE HAD ONE OF THESE FOR SALE. I ORDERED IT — THE SAME AS SHOWN IN THE DRAWING ON THE LEFT. IT IS ALL GOLD IN COLOR AND WAS ON THE ORIGINAL CARD. THE PARTY WHO SOLD IT TO ME WROTE THAT SHE HAD SIX MORE. THESE TOO I PURCHASED — ALL ON CARDS AND IN PERFECT CONDITION. CAPT. MARVEL LIVES ON IN THE MEMORY OF HIS FANS.

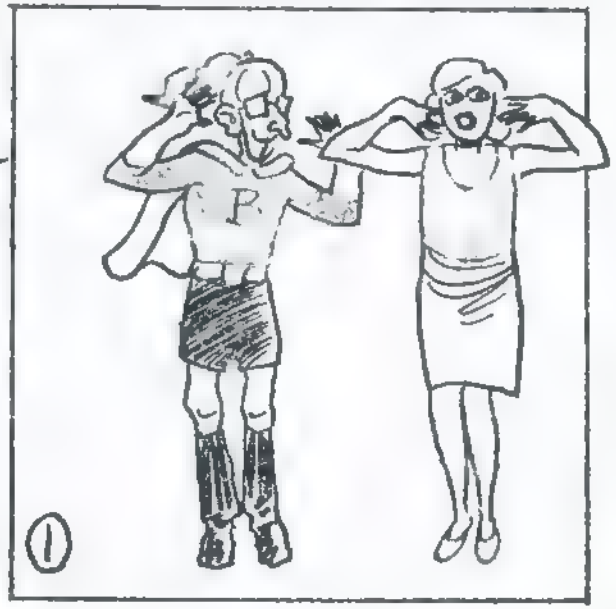
AND I SUPPOSE AS YEARS GO BY, OTHER OLD COLLECTORS ITEMS WILL TURN UP. HOPE SO.

DO ANY OF YOU CAPA-ALPHIANS TAPE THE BATMAN TV SHOWS, OR OTHER SHOWS? I AM IN NEED OF A FEW BATMAN SHOWS AND WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE MY FILES. AND YOU BATMANIANS — HOW ABOUT YOU, CAN YOU HELP? CONTACT ME IF YOU CAN.

— continued 3RD pg. Following →



TO SET THE MOOD, IT'S BATMAN'S MASK—WITH ASTONISHED LOOK, OF COURSE.



NEXT, IT'S A POSE OF GETTING OUT BATMAN'S CAPE— AND SWINGING IT WIDE.

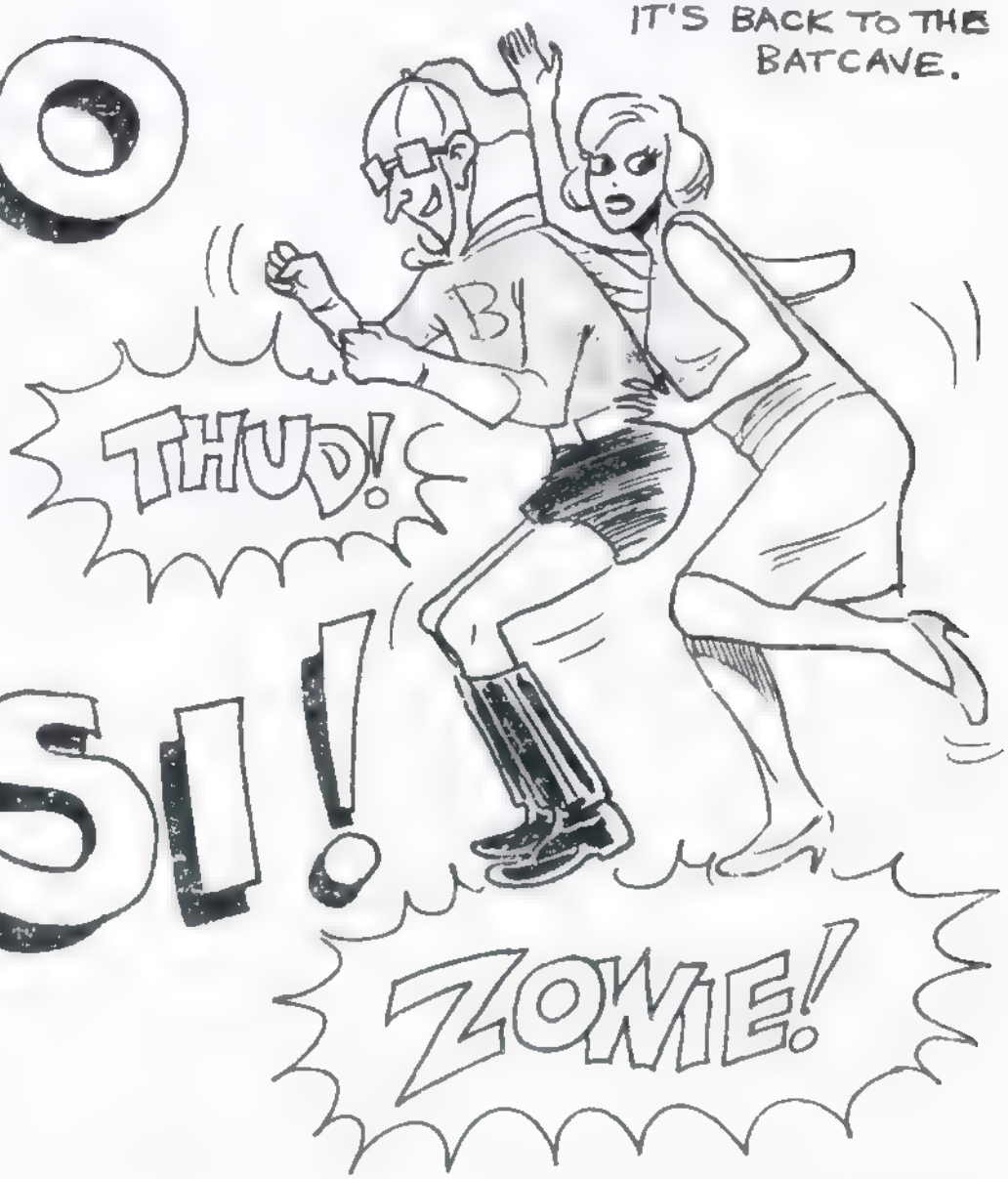
THEN YOU SOAR WITH THE

THE FLYING SEARCH IS AL-

THEN IT'S OFF IN THE BATMOBILE ON SOME SERIOUS CRIME-

POW!

BIJO DOES THE BATUSI!



The WORLD of CAPT. BILJO

THE LIMITED PRINT RUN OF 50 COPIES FOR CAPT. BILJO COLLECTORS ITEMS COMICS (SEE CONTENTS PAGE INSERT) UNFORTUNATELY COULDN'T BE HELPED. SEVERAL FANS WILL BE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY. NONE WILL BE SOLD. I HAVE PLACED A TRADE VALUE OF $1.00 ON EACH OF THEM. HOWEVER, I HAVE COLLATED A FEW EXTRA SHEETS INTO INCOMPLETE COPIES. THEY ARE = #51 = 2 PGS. GONE; #52 = 4 PGS GONE; #53 = 6 PGS GONE; #54 = 55 = 56 ALL HAVE 10 PGS MISSING - BUT COMICS ARE COMPLETE. #57 - 12 GONE; #58, #59 - 16 GONE, #60 - 18 PGS. GONE. NO OTHER COPIES. THESE TOO WILL BE DISPOSED OF BY TRADE, OFFERS?

I STILL NEED 3-LINE BATMAN SUNDAY STRIPS. MY PAPER CARRIES 2 LINERS, SO I NEED SEVERAL DIFFERENT DATES.

THIS WORLD OF CAPT BILJO, AS YOU CAN TELL, IS CONCERNED WITH COLLECTING AND PUBLISHING. I SPEND EQUAL TIME AMONG THE TWO - AND THE ENJOYMENT IS EQUAL. IN 1955 I STARTED TO COLLECT COMICS OF ALL KINDS. PREVIOUS TO THIS I HAD CONCENTRATED ON ONLY BATMAN. I HAD NOT, AT THAT POINT, HAD A DEFINITE OF WORLD'S FINEST. BUT SINCE THEN LADY LUCK SMILED ON ME AND NOW MY BATMAN ADVENTURES ARE COMPLETE. OTHER INTERESTS INCLUDE = ALL THE OLD HERO WORKS by FRANK THOMAS IN CRACKAJACK FUNNIES AND POPULAR COMICS. I WAS MOST PLEASED TO SEE THE OWL RETURN RECENTLY. AS FAR BACK AS JULY 1962 WHEN KOMIX ILL. #1 CAME OUT, THE LEAD ARTICLE IN THE DAYDREAMERS DEPT. QUOTE = "... AND SOMEWHERE IN OLD LIMBO LAND I CAN IMAGINE THE OWL AND BEAUTIFUL BELLE WAYNE STILL OCCASIONALLY JUMP INTO THE OWL PLANE AND BLAST FORTH IN AN UNENDING SEARCH FOR THAT MAGIC DIMENSION WHERE THEY CAN RETURN TO THE PRESENT WORLD OF COMICS."

I HAD MY DOUBTS, EVEN THEN, THAT THE OWL WOULD RETURN, BUT THE DAY OF THE COMICS-HERO IS STILL UPON US AND HE'S BACK. THE 1ST ISSUE WASN'T TOO IMPRESSIVE. I GOT THE IMPRESSION IT WAS A RUSH JOB TO GET THE OLD FELLOW BACK UNDER COPYRIGHT. NOTICE THE WESTERN PUB. CO. COPYRIGHT ON THE COVER? THIS, I WONDER, DID IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MART BAILEY AND JERRY DE FUCCIO AND THEIR PLANS TO DO THE OWL? KA - #24 AND THE UP-TO-DATE VERSION OF THE OWL COULD HAVE SPURRED THE RETURN OF THE OWL. I WONDER.

CAPT. BILJO

Advertisement — This issue available For trade value of $1.00

CAPT. BILJO COLLECTORS ITEM COMICS for 1967

No. 1

Comments & Contents

KOMIX ILLUSTRATED, MY OLD FANZINE OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO, S STILL BEING ASKED FOR TODAY. NOT FOR, I BELIEVE, ITS OVERALL OPULARITY — BECAUSE IT SURELY MUST OF BEEN A GLORIFIED CRUD-INE. TRUE, IT WAS ONE OF THE EARLY 'ZINES DEVOTED TO COMICS, UT THE KEY THING THAT SET KI APART FROM OTHER ZINES WAS HE OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF ITS CONTRIBUTORS.

RONN FOSS AND RICHARD "GRASS" GREEN ARE LEGENDS IN THE ORLD OF COMIC FANDOM. TO SEE WHY, WE ARE BRINGING-BACK THEIR REATEST WORKS IN THIS SPECIAL 1967 EDITION OF CAPT. BILJO OLLECTORS-ITEM COMICS.

IN PRESENTING SUCH A PUBLICATION AS THIS I WANT TO POINT UT THIS IS A VERY LIMITED EDITION. ONLY 50 COPIES ARE BEING RINTED — DUE MAINLY TO THE FACT MOST PAGES ARE REPRODUCED ROM THE ORIGINAL MASTERS UNITS AS DRAWN BY THE ARTISTS. ONLY Y A STROKE OF VERY GOOD FORTURE IS THIS ZINE REALITY. AFTER RIGINALLY USING THE MASTERS FOR KOMIX ILL. I COULDN'T BEAR O DISCARD THEM (AS IS USUALLY DONE). ORDINARILY THE OLD ASTERS WOULD NOT GENERALLY REPRODUCE AGAIN, BUT AFTER SOME EXPERIMENTING I FOUND THAT THIS "LOST ART" COULD LIVE AGAIN.

IN ADDITION, THIS 1ST EDITION PRESENTS OTHER ITEMS OF NTEREST. FOR A FULL RUN-DOWN ON THE CONTENTS . . . .

- ☆ Introducing = THE VIPER. Story + Art by RONN FOSS, 10 PGS. (Appeared in KOMIX ILLUSTRATED #5 - NOV. 1962. IT IS CONSIDERED RONN'S FINEST MASTERED-ART.)
- ☆ THE FOG VS. THE BLACK BEE by BILJO WHITE and RICHARD "GRASS" GREEN (AND ASSISTED by MYRA FOSS) 7 PGS. (Appeared in KOMIX ILLUSTRATED #6 - DEC. 1962. I CAN RECALL NO OTHER MASTERED ART BY GRASS THAT CAN COMPARE WITH THIS.
- ☆ RETURN OF THE BAT by BILJO WHITE. FICTION, TEXT STORY THAT Appeared IN CAPA-ALPHA #23 - SEPT. 1966 - which is circulated to club members only - THUS MANY IN FANDOM HAVE NEVER READ IT. 4 PAGES
- ☆ BAT-BULLETINS ARE REPRODUCED FOR THOSE THAT MAY WANT TO COMPLETE THEIR COLLECTION, #102 thru #107. (#101 WAS SENT OUT TO STATE LIEUTENANTS ONLY).

CAPT BIL JO COLLECTORS-ITEM COMICS

Comments Contents

* THIS IS AN Advertisement = 2 pgs. From the ORIGINAL ISSUE

* THE WILD-KINGDOM OF CRIMEFIGHTERS by BILJO WHITE (Appeared in KOMIX ILL. #10 - LIMBO #1 - May 1963 6 PAGES.)

* THE BOOT COLLECTOR (NEWSLETTER) # 2 - JAN. 1966 (1st ISSUE - 6 PGS OF MATERIAL - W.TH ILLOS.)

* THE BLADE by [illegible] FOSS AND RICHARD "GRASS" GREEN (7 PGS. Appeared in KOMIX ILLUSTRATED # 3 (1966)

* [illegible] CAPT. BILJO [illegible] 4 page cartoon layout which APPEARED IN KOMIX ILL. # 8 (FEB. 1963)

[illegible] DID NOT [illegible]

IN ADDITION TO THE LAUGHING PHANTOM by GRASS GREEN [illegible] APPEARED IN KOMIX ILL. # 5 APRIL 1962 - 7 PGS.

SEE THE TOP BILL I LOVED IT NO 2 AS I HAVE OTHER [illegible] COULD BE REPRODUCED. BUT I FEEL THIS ISSUE PRESENTS OUR FANDOM IN ITS ORIGINAL CONCEPTION. THIS WAS THE DAY OF JERRY BAILS, RON THOMAS, DON THOMPSON, EARLEY [illegible] MIKE ROSBURG, FOSS AND GREEN AND OTHERS. WE WERE THERE IN THE BEGINNING AND WE HAD A LOT OF FUN. PERHAPS A [illegible] OUR EFFORTS (IN THIS PUBLICATION) WILL INDICATE THE TREND OF [illegible] THAT HAS NOW EVOLVED TO THE FANDOM OF TODAY.

WE'VE RECEIVED THIS SELECTION 'THE BEST FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF FANZINES', AND WE DO FEEL IT IS FAN-ART AT ITS FINEST. YOU WILL NOT SEE BETTER MASTERED ART FROM THE MID 62-63 PERIOD THAN IN CBCIC. WE'VE SAID IT - YOU READ CBCIC AND SEE FOR YOURSELF. IF YOU WERE THERE FIRST TIME AROUND, COME JOIN US AGAIN. IF THIS IS YOUR INITIAL VISIT, TAKE A LOOK, AND MAY YOU AGREE WITH ALL WE'VE STATED.

KEEP CBCIC, YOU MAY WANT TO RE-READ IT IN YEARS TO COME. IT MAY NOT BE THE BEST FANZINE YOU EVER OWNED, BUT WE, THE EARLY BUNCH, REALLY TRIED TO PURPOSE WAS TANT

AND HOPE WE HAVE [illegible] OF TASTE TO MATTER

[illegible] (CAPT BIL) JO

CAPT. BIL JO, COLLECTORS-ITEM COMICS, FALL 1966 - MULTIPLIED & PUBLISHED BY THE WHITE HOUSE OF COMICS, 1306 JACKSON ST., COLUMBIA, MO. 65201, U.S.A. ALL PRINT RUN LIMITED TO 50 COPIES.

FANDOM AT RANDOM

a "panel discussion" · by Jonathan Wolf

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION... I am a student at Evanston High School in Evanston, Illinois. I have been in fandom for about 2½ years and have over 1,000 comics and over 100 fanzines. I have had letters on comics printed in Daredevil, Comic Reader and (believe it or not) Partisan Review. I have long contemplated pubbing a fanzine, but I think I'll wait for a while. This is a perfect chance to be read and at the same time escape the headaches of editorship. My purpose here is your enjoyment, so, read on MacDuff...

Some competitor has started the rumor that the Clown, the Joker, the Riddler and Lord Ha-Ha have started an organization called the Fellowship of Fun.

Why can't the JLA stand on its own two- I mean twenty-two-feet? Must the JSA always tag along? Numerically, the League has nine issues a year (twice in November, which comes out in Summer and sells best) and two of these feature the Justice Society. This "traditional" guest appearance is almost a third of their time. If the world's most powerful, though least human, super-heroes can't win by themselves...oh boy!

What if Eclipso gets a splitting headache?

Have you noticed Brave and Bold lately? Although all the team-ups necessarily star Batman, the last few have been quite good. Batman-GL and Bat-Hawk were both well written stories. Who's responsible? Binder? Hamilton?

Hourman isn't so great. Why, even in the Revolutionary War they had guys faster than him!

What about the new "extras" in Schwartzian mags? Twice as much chance to get printed (and twice as much to read!)

Can't DC PLEEEESE stop commercializing on Batman just a little? Split logos, okay. Bat-teams in B&B, okay. But JLA...a bit less camp? No more SOCK!s on the cover!!!?

How would you like to see Warren Worthington take up harp? Ever hear Ra-Man cheer? (ohhhh...) Cap really should work with Fury, after all, one good shield deserves another... Who said comics can't be pun?

SOAP BOX TIME AGAIN (Waddya mean, again?) Fandom is really in trouble. The Academy almost fell apart. Zines and comics are sold at outrageous prices. Everyone is looking for a profit. Remember, we were formed to rehash and verbally clash, not to be Uncle Scrooges and to whatever-rhymes-with-Scrooges.

Green Lantern (earth 2) ought to have it out with Joyce Kilmer.

more anecdotes, comments and even a reference to Marvel on the next page!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!?

FHN POWER

LEE A COPYCAT? The M.M.M.S., as some of you may know, is not an original idea. The ghouls at E.C. back in the fifties had an organization called the E.C. fan-addict club. For 25¢ (later raised to 50¢) one could join this group sponsored by the MADmen, CRYPTics and VAULTcreepers and receive a humorous certificate of membership, a pin, a wallet-sized identification card and an E.C.- F.A. shoulder patch. Sound familiar? And, just like the merry marchers, an occasional club bulletin came out. And we paid 75¢ more! Of course, we can get t-shirts and sweatshirts. I'd get one if only the price would stop rising. Maybe that 6% tax increase.....

IF NOT A COPYCAT, WOULD YOU BELIEVE A BAD EDITOR? Stan Lee has a knack for losing artists and hiring (that's hiring) worse ones! He let Orlando, Wood, Severin, Ditko, and many others slip from his fingers. And who replaces them? Gil Kane (I never realized how well he did GL till I saw his Hulk). Marie Severin (and the next F.F. will be drawn by Flo Steinberg...) John Romita (a truly great artist whom Stan uses once- count it- once!) And even King Kirby does two comics a month only. Lee just can't work his artists out right.

And what about his writers? Roy Thomas is doing pretty well. His Doc Strange was the only bad one. Where is MB 10????????????? Denny O'Neal is good. But Lee lets him do Millie the Model. Stan is a great writer and idea man. But as scripter and artist juggler, my vote goes to Schwartz and Kanigher and Simon.

RECEIVED...READ...RECOMMENDED (WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?)
A partial ist of must zines;

Fantasy Illustrated #6 Art, articles, humor. Offset. 60¢
Bill Spicer 4878(that's 4878) Granada St., L.A. 90042 A must.

Trumpet # 4 Science Fiction, Tarzan, Lots of humor and just plain interesting stuff. Offset. 60¢ Tom Reamy 1709 Debbie Dr. Plano, Texas 75074

Witzend #1 Williamson, Wood, other great artists plus some clever writing. Truly great. Wally Wood, Box 582, Ansonia Station New York, N.Y. 10023 that costs $1.oo, but it's worth it!

Vanguard #1 Some very interesting pieces on Cuban Comics and on Don Winslow of the Navy. The editors can't sell enough to break even, but it's really a good zine. 50¢. Robert Latona 148 South Wrexham Ct., Tonawanda N.Y. 14150 [illegible] 90¢

Valor # 1 Discretion is the better part of Valor- discretion for good writing and especially for fine art by editor Jim Gardner I can't find the price! 25 or 35, I think. Write Jim at 475 Patton Ave. San Jose, Cal. 95128

Barsoomian #11. For those at least mildly interested in Edgar Rice Burroughs, this is the zine. 50¢ or 3 for a buck. Fascinating stories and anecdotes and columns. Wow-type art. Paul C. Allen 84 Charlton Rd. Rochester, N.W. 14617

Get these magazines! I've read and enjoyed every one! Next issue, as Biljo continues the Batmania-200, I'll talk about my interview with Julius Schwartz. See ya then!

The BATMANIANS SPEAK

Mark Dillman, Topeka, Kan. Concerning the subject brought up in the BM Speak section, having Batman work outside the law might tend to make the Caped Crusader an unrealistic crime fighter. Then he'd really be a nut in longjohns! I like him as he is, a cop in a costume. Should he be "dead" years ago and "revived" he, I'm certain, would be an over-scientific hero such as the Ator, Flash, etc. but without super-powers or maybe comical figures as the TV serial was. I was ready to write asking for more Bat-Fiction stories but Fred Sand has now done something about it.

*Editor's note: Due to the early publication date of this issue of Batmania, we have not prepared a feature-length article based on 'What would Batman be like if he'd been "revived" as Ator, Flash, etc.' Also, re Bat-Fiction, we cannot, in conforming to National Periodicals Pub. policy, print stories in which Batman and Robin are prominently featured in an original adventure story.

Gordon Flagg, Jr., Atlanta, Geor[illegible] I suppose many fans would prefer a "straight" cover than one played for humor like #15, but I think you should have a humorous cover, similar to #15 and #12, on about every third issue. Also, I think most fans prefer offset covers to spirit, especially efforts covers with a spirited egg, such as on #15. The Bat-Fiction was a feature that I was also pleased to see. Fan fiction, while abundant in Science-Fiction fanzines, is sadly lacking in comic fanzines, and it's something that most fans really like. Tom McGeehan's House of Info Flash Gordon article was enjoyable, even though I'm more interested in the strip and the movie serial than the television series. Even so, I feel that a non-Batman article has no place in Batmania. Knowing you to be a great Flash Gordon fan, I doubt if an article on any other character could have gotten into Batmania.

*Note: James Bond, Doc Savage, Flash Gordon, The Phantom, etc., are all some of my favorite characters, and altho I may occasionally seem to "promote" them, I feel that none of them will ever take the place of the Dynamic Duo. A new visitor to "The White House of Comics" would be awed to see the framed 18"x 26" picture of Doc Savage immediately above my desk. Mainly it's there because it's a beautiful piece of art. (Taken from cover of the DS paperback: MAN OF BRONZE. Can be ordered for $1.00 from: Bantam Books Inc., Dept. BM, Rm. 607, 271 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10016. Send check or money order only.)
The Flash Gordon pages (House of Info) were contributed especially for the proposed Batmania-200 issue--which was intended for any sort of material--not necessarily Batman only.

[illegible] THEY [illegible]

HOW A BIG-TIME COMIC IS BORN---THE TRUE STORY OF BATMAN AND ROBIN

Without a single exclamation mark, the yellow lettering read thusly on Issue No. 5 of Real Fact Comics. The exclamation marks would come later when [illegible] lifted the cover of that publication [illegible] Nov.-Dec. 1946 and [illegible] reading its first lead-off feature.

And Superman DC publications made the [illegible] of a "big-time comic" look like child's play. They did it in [illegible] five-pages and took a few liberties with the facts along with conciseness.

Panel 1 shows Bob Kane seated before his drawing board with a tiny Batman and tiny Robin waving merrily to the readers.

"In 19[illegible], a new champion of Law and Order appeared on the fiction horizon, a colorful crime-fighter known as BATMAN!" read the lettering of Panel 2.

Here [illegible] shown snapping his way out of a cover of Detective Comics May 1939, No. 27. It was the third issue he had appeared in all right but the costume he wore was the one familiar to readers of 1946 and not the uniform of the time the tale was originally [illegible].

Subsequent [illegible] showed how Batman gained priority space in not only Detective Comics, but Batman and World's Finest as well. [illegible] newspaper syndication of the strip that followed "a few years later" won Batman "20,000,000 more followers when hundreds of newspapers began printing his [illegible]."

Action [illegible] of the Batman movie serials [illegible] Batman was used as [illegible] Force [illegible] official insignia during the war. The [illegible] remained [illegible].

[illegible] Fact account turned attention on Bob Kane, "creator of Batman." Kane is quoted as saying, 'Ever since I was a small [illegible], I wanted to [illegible] artist. I used to save my lunch money and buy crayons...'

Kane is [illegible] as being interested in art during high school along with being an avid reader of Detective fiction.

Next a "friend" is shown donning a "costume your mother made?" "Why, no!?" he [illegible]. Replies Kane:

"I'm sketching a new character---a creature of the night--BATMAN! He'll be a daring, acrobatic hero--a super sleuth who, in a secret identity, will fight crime!"

Again the costume of the yet-unborn Batman is shown as the modern garb of the late 40's. Likewise were the "first" sketches of the Batplane and Batmobile.

Evidently, Superman'DC Magazine editors didn't believe in letting the reader know Kane had worked on other strips before creating Batman. For we see Kane "Weeks later, at the Editorial Offices of SUPERMAN DC MAGAZINES." With hand in pocket, Kane listens as an eye-shade wearing editor looks at a sketch of Batman in action and says with a smile: "You've created an exciting character, son. I think we can do something with him."

How were Robin, Joker and Penguin created? Real Fact holds "of the thousands of (fan) letters, one made him (Kane) think..." "And I would like to see Batman have a partner...someone who can share the secret of his identity," the letter writer presumably begged. "And so was inspired the creation of ROBIN, The Boy Wonder..." the next panel commented tersely.

The Joker came about after a practical joke played on Kane by a friend, according to the Real Fact account, while the Penguin developed

from a sketch of an amusinglooking man carrying an umbrella "one beautiful summer afternoon."

To conclude this "real-life story," the last panel of the feature read, "Today, BATMAN and ROBIN, once a dream, have brought Bob Kane fame and fortune..."

A grinning Kane is shown saying, "Thanks for your interest and wonderful friendship, BATMAN fans!" Standing on the drawing board behind him are Batman and Robin, with the elder crime-fighter avowing:

"And thank you, Bob Kane, for bringing us to life!"

And though Real Fact Comics No. 5 today is a coveted comic collector's item, more thanksmight be due to Superman DC had they cut some of the other 13 "star features" to make the "Big-Time" story longer and more accurate in detail.

An interesting opportunity was passed up. What a great story it would have been with more emphasis on Kane's career and a tracing of costume development and crime-fighting weapons and methods of Batman.

No, the "Real Fact" story is yet to be told. It wasn't in REAL FACT NO. 5.

---Tom Fagan

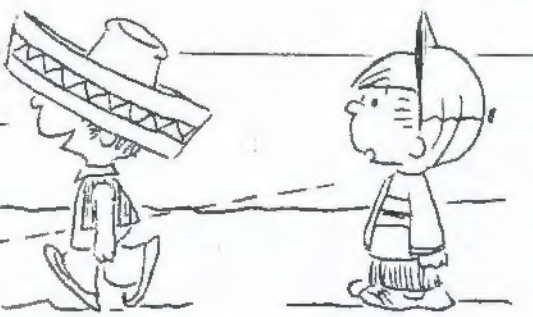
MORE BAT-FACTS:

"It's the Caped Crusader...the protector of Jellystone Justice... BAT-BEAR!"

"And, don't forget me... BEAR WONDER!"

AND SO BATMAN CONTINUES to influence the thinking of other strips, such as:

YOGI BEAR, 1-29-67

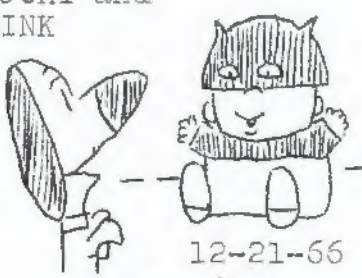


WINTHROP for 1-19-67:

"We even watch BOTMON."

"Holy Enchilada."

Below: CHOOCHI and TWINK



12-21-66

(British strip) "Lawks-a-mercy! Who can this impressive person be?"

"I'm the dynamic BATMAN!"

CAPT. BILJO SAYS:

"A Comic Worth Reading is Worth Saving." #1

I STILL NEED many BATMAN SUNDAY STRIPS of the 40's after #100. Also need 3-line Batman strips currently running. Please contact:
BILJO WHITE, 1812 JACKSON ST., COLUMBIA, MISSOURI 65201

Send all Comic Oddities and Bat-Facts to
1812 Jackson St. Columbia, Mo. 65201

COMIC ODDITIES and BAT-FACTS

"Looka, fellers, we finally made it in Batmania!" is what Butch of "The Gas House Gang" might be saying. The above group appeared on the inside of the front cover of Adventure Comics, #35 - February, 1939. Need I tell you, the artist of this strip was. . .Bob Kane.

THE TALE OF THE LOST CAPE...In BATMAN #9 there are two inking errors (at least we'll blame him), in which Robin is shown twice without his cape. Check your copies, Bat-Collectors, and you'll find the capeless Boy Wonder on page 12, panel 2 of THE FOUR FATES, and page 7, panel 6 of THE CASE OF THE LUCKY LAW-BREAKERS. ---Tom Griffin

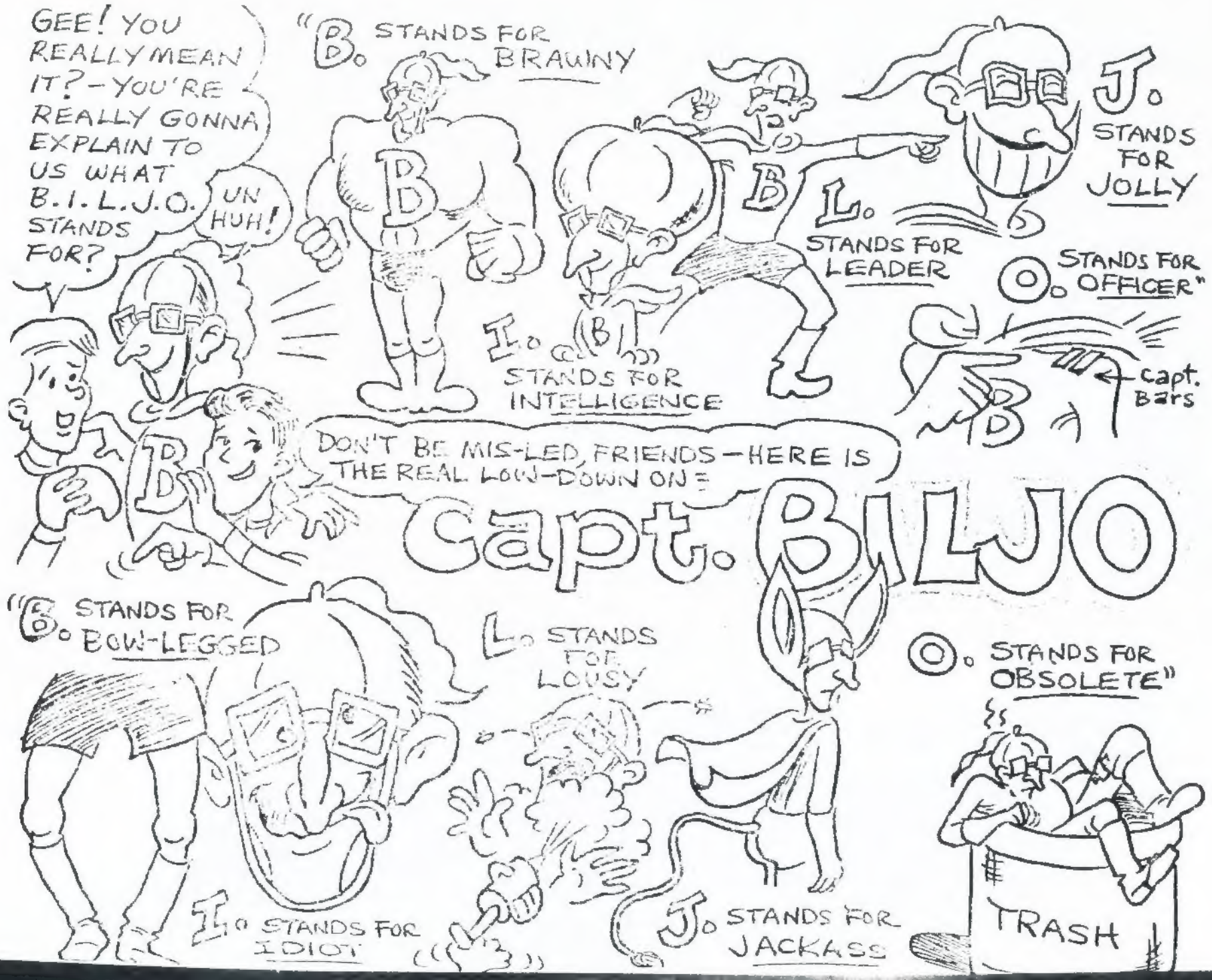
A BIG BAT-BLUNDER appeared in BATMAN #68. On page 4 of the "Butler" story, BM & R are flying in the Batplane and Batman says: "Strange! The Batmobile isn't gaining altitude as easily as it usually does!" Also on page 1 of the same story, Alfred is leaving Wayne Manor with Batman and Robin standing in the yard and a sign in the yard reads: HELP WANTED! NEW BUTLER! Holy tipoff! ---Bill Wilson

THE FICKLE FINGER OF FATE...Wayne DeWald (capable editor of COMIC COMMENTS) tells us: "The manager of the drive-in theater where I work used to manage a theatre during the time the first Batman serial came out. As a publicity event they had Bob Kane on stage doing some illos. He did one of Batman, Robin, Joker, and Penguin. All were 22"x 28" charcoal drawings. Hearing this I immediately became excited, especially when he said he saved them. Upon further questioning however, it turns out the drawings were lost sometime last year in a move from an indoor to outdoor theater when an assistant threw them out thinking they were worthless." (Let's all have a good cry. -Biljo)

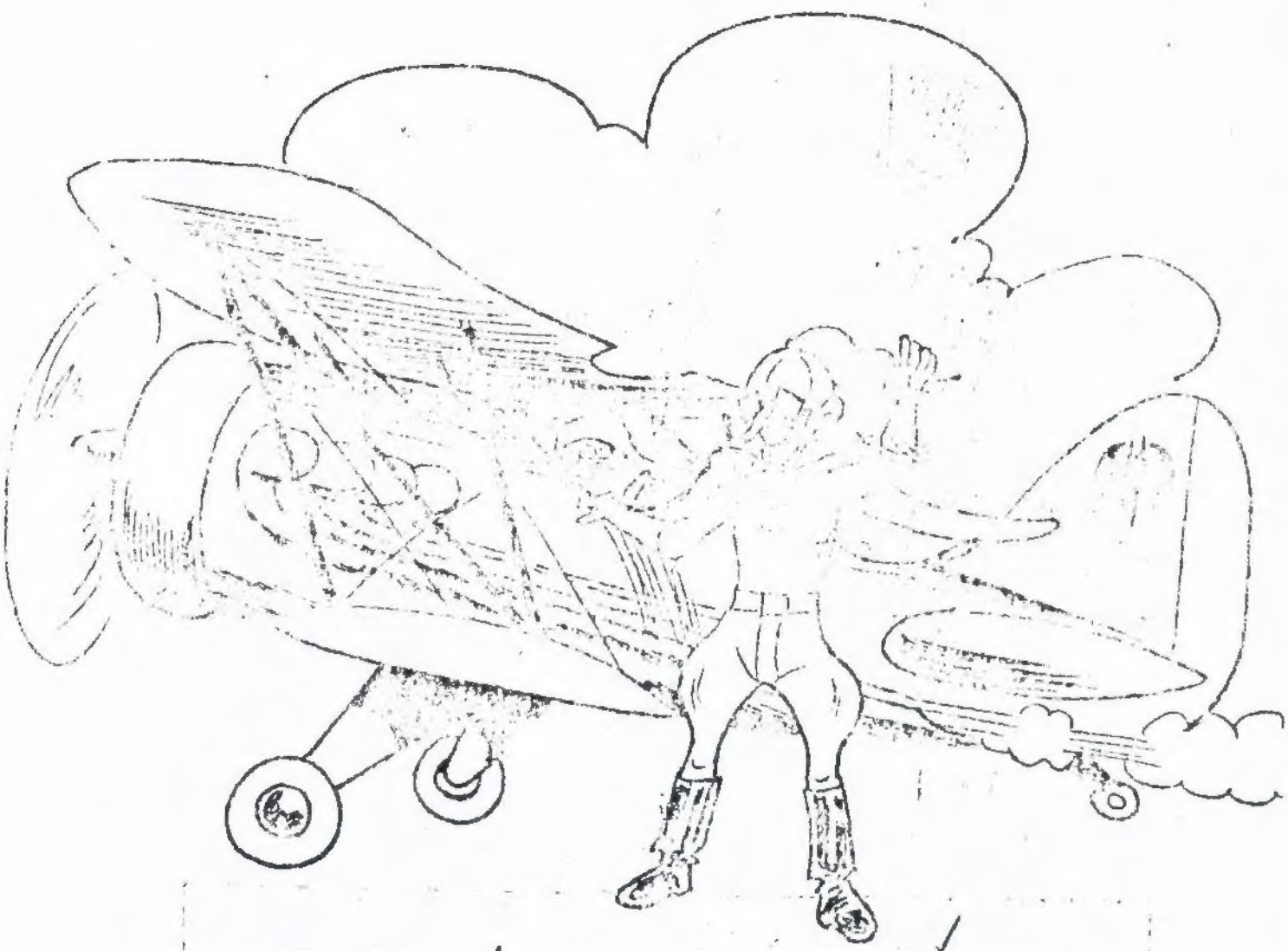
BAT-JOKES A N Y O N E ? (Sent in by Robert Stump)

Q. Do you know who Batman's cook is? A. Batty Crocker.
Q. Why did Robin get kicked off the baseball team. A. He forgot his bat-man!
Q. What's Batman's favorite sport? A. Bat-minton.
Q. Why doesn't Batman fly? A. Because his boots were made for walking.
Q. Who was Batman's girl friend? A. Cleo-batra.
How about one on Superman...
Q. Why does everybody want to burn Superman? A. Holy Smoke! light up a Kent and you've got a good thing going!

---With that one, we've got to go..more C.O. next issue.


GEE! YOU REALLY MEAN IT? - YOU'RE REALLY GONNA EXPLAIN TO US WHAT B.I.L.J.O. STANDS FOR?
UN HUH!
"B. STANDS FOR BRAWNY
I. STANDS FOR INTELLIGENCE
L. STANDS FOR LEADER
J. STANDS FOR JOLLY
O. STANDS FOR OFFICER"
capt. Bars
DON'T BE MIS-LED, FRIENDS - HERE IS THE REAL LOW-DOWN ON =
Capt. BILJO
"B. STANDS FOR BOW-LEGGED
I. STANDS FOR IDIOT
L. STANDS FOR LOUSY
J. STANDS FOR JACKASS
O. STANDS FOR OBSOLETE"
TRASH

INSIDE BACK COVER



BACK COVER